



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
HAR HAZEITIM
 הוועד הבינלאומי להגנת הר הזיתים

International Committee for Har Hazeitim

UPDATE

Winter 2018

The International Historic Cemetery of the Jewish People



THE HISTORIC MISSION

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Universal Support for Future of Har Hazeitim

For 50 participants from the US, Israel and Europe, the 3-day mission of the ICHH could not have been more successful. It not only celebrated the establishment of the largest Knesset caucus in history (67) from every political faction except for the United Arab List; it sent a strong united message that Har Hazeitim will be protected and restored to its original glory at all costs. The 3-day mission began on Monday December 4th with a meeting with Israel's Chief Rabbis and ended on Wednesday December 6th with a reception by Israel's President Reuven Rivlin. In this newsletter, we are pleased to bring you the amazing brief highlights from the extraordinary 3-day mission.



PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WITH MISSION PARTICIPANTS



Israel's Chief Rabbis Yosef and Lau

The mission began with a joint reception by Israel's Chief Rabbis, Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef, the Rishon Letzion and Rabbi Dovid Lau. They emphasized the centrality of Har Hazeitim in Jewish history. "We know that the mountain will split and usher in the era of tehiyat hameitim that will signal the arrival of moshiach," said Rabbi Yosef. Rabbi Lau recalled his visit to the home of Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief of Agudas Yisrael Bais Binyomin of Flatbush at a breakfast benefitting the ICHH more than two years ago when he shared the pulpit with Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, the Novominsker Rebbe. "There is no holier missive for a Jew than to secure the *shochnei afar*," said Rabbi Lau. The rabbis thanked the ICHH for their seven years of hard work "to restore Har Hazeitim" to its original glory in Jewish history."



MISSION PARTICIPANTS MEETING WITH ISRAEL'S CHIEF RABBIS, RABBI YITZCHOK YOSEF, THE RISHON LETZION AND RABBI DOVID LAU



Waldorf Dinner Launches Mission

At a festive dinner at Jerusalem's luxurious Waldorf Astoria, the delegates heard from MK Yoav ben Zur, the chairman of the new historic Knesset caucus on Har Hazeitim, Yoav Galant, Israel's Minister of Housing and Construction, Yaakov Litzman, the former Minister of Health, and Rabbi Eli ben Dahan, the Deputy Minister of Defense. Rabbi Litzman received a standing ovation for his immediate resignation as health minister after widespread chilul Shabbos. The representatives on the mission came from all areas of New York, Lakewood, Toronto, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Zurich, Dublin, London, Antwerp and Amsterdam as well as Yerushalayim.

Menachem Lubinsky, co-chairman of the ICHH, served as chairman of the event, noting that the mission was taking place at a "historic junction for the holy Har Hazeitim."



(L-R) MENACHEM LUBINSKY, MALCOLM HOENLEIN, MINISTER MK YOAV GALANT, MK YOAV BEN ZUR AT THE OPENING DINNER OF THE MISSION



MENACHEM LUBINSKY INTRODUCING RABBI YAAKOV LITZMAN, THE FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH



MISSION PARTICIPANTS WITH JERUSALEM'S COMMANDER, YORAM LEVI AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICERS

High Level Tour of Har Hazeitim

On Tuesday morning, the representatives and supporters of the ICHH toured Har Hazeitim, and received an updated report from senior police officials, headed by Jerusalem's Commander Yoram Halevi. The police officials said that there has been a dramatic change on the mountain with some 2000 visitors coming



daily. The new security on the mountain was a result of the intensive efforts of the ICHH that includes the installation of more than 170 surveillance cameras, a functioning police station, restoration of more than 20,000 graves, the construction of a wall/fence around the Eastern sector of the cemetery, restoration of regular bus service, the stationing of a border patrol unit and much more. The tour was joined by Rabbi Dovid Azoulay, the Minister of Religions and MK Rabbi Yoav ben Zur.

Luncheon Reception at the Wall with Rabbi and Deputy Mayor

At a luncheon reception at the Arches Restaurant, just a few feet from the Kosel

Hamaravi, the group heard from Rabbi Yosef Rabinovitch, the rabbi of the Kosel Hamaravi and from Rabbi Yosef Deutsch, the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem. Rabbi Rabinovitch pointed out the “kedusha” of the entire area which includes Har Hazeitim. Rabbi Deutsch noted that he was extremely jealous that it took “two brothers from Brooklyn to finally care for the 150,000 holy souls that are buried there. What a zchus!”



RABBI DEUTCH AT KOSEL DINNER



RABBI YOSEF RABINOVITCH, RABBI OF THE KOSEL HAMARAVI ADDRESSING MISSION PARTICIPANTS AT ARCHES RESTAURANT

The Key Moment: Inauguration of the Knesset Caucus

A key moment of the mission came at a ceremony in the Knesset marking the launch of an historic caucus on Har Hazeitim. Speakers included Minister Yoav Galant, Opposition

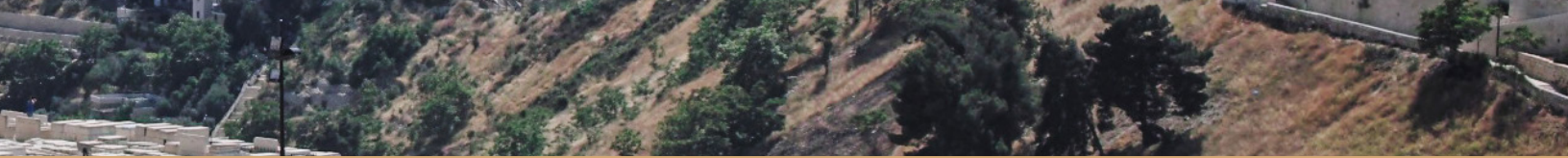


Leader Yitzchak (Buzi) Herzog, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, Malcolm Hoenlein, the Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Yoav ben Zur, the chairman of the caucus. To demonstrate the unprecedented unity on the subject of Har Hazeitim, Knesset members from across the spectrum attended the impressive ceremony. They included Rabbi Uri Maklev, Yaakov Asher and Yisrael Eichler from Yahadut Hatorah, MK's Yitzchak Venkin and Michael Malchieli from Shas, MK's Yuli Edelstein and Yehuda Glick from Likud, MK Meir Cohen from Yesh Atid, MK's Yitzchak Herzog and Yossi Yonah from the Zionist Movement (Labor), MK Oded Forer from Yisrael Beteinu and MK Galant from Kulanu. Amongst the 67 caucus members is also a representative from Meretz. This is the first time in the Knesset's history that a majority of the parliamentary body joined a caucus on any issue. Most Knesset caucus groups include a handful to a dozen or so members.



*OPPOSITION LEADER MK YITZCHAK HERZOG
SPEAKING AT THE KNESSET SESSION*

Minister Galant, whose Ministry of Housing and Construction is responsible for security on Har Hazeitim, noted how important it was for him personally "to have such a major role in the security of such a historic and holy place." MK Herzog noted that many members of his family of notables are buried there and that "there are no political differences when it comes to Har Hazeitim." Speaker Edelstein, who launched the Caucus, had high praise for Chairman ben Zur. Mr. Hoenlein said that we learned a long time ago "that if we can't protect our past, we have no future." He condemned the irrational United Nations for not recognizing Har Habayit and Har Hazeitim as being totally Jewish from every vantage point. Rabbi ben Zur stressed how incredible it was to see the overwhelming response to his invitation to join the Caucus.



Prime Minister Netanyahu: "Har Hazeitim is THE Mountain!"

The culmination of an action-filled day on Tuesday came at a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his office. Speaking to the ICHH group, the Prime Minister said that if Yerushalayim is known "to be surrounded by mountains," the 3000-year-old Har Hazeitim is "THE Mountain." He thanked the ICHH for its efforts over the last 7 ½ years to reverse the abuse and decay of the cemetery and pledged to continue the government's efforts to improve security and return Har Hazeitim to its original glory. "I want you to know that I have been following what is happening on Har Hazeitim," the Prime Minister said. In return, Menachem Lubinsky, co-chairman of the ICHH said: "I want to remind the Prime Minister that the effort began in 2010 when Malcolm Hoenlein and I visited with you in New York to brief you on the shameful state of abuse and neglect on Har Hazeitim. You immediately opened all doors for us which led to the historic reversal on the holy mountain."

The Prime Minister related that his grandparents are buried on Har Hazeitim, a theme the group heard from many of the notables they met with during the 3-day mission.



MENACHEM LUBINSKY ADDRESSING PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU



President Rivlin: Personal with Har Hazeitim

On Wednesday, the third day of the mission, the group was greeted by President Reuven Rivlin at Bet Hanasi. The President spoke of his deep family roots in Yerushalayim and the large number of his family members who are buried on Har Hazeitim. President Rivlin is a ninth generation Jerusalemite. He had high praise for the efforts of the ICHH. "Who does not recognize that the leaders of our people are interred there," said the President. The President spent more than 45 minutes with the group and mingled with the ICHH mission members.



THE LUBINSKY BROTHERS WITH PRESIDENT RIVLIN

On the Cusp of History, ICHH Meets Jerusalem's Mayor



MAYOR NIR BARKAT ADDRESSING THE MISSION PARTICIPANTS

On a historic day for Jerusalem when President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the group ended the three day mission at a reception tendered by the city's Mayor Nir Barkat. The Mayor spoke at length about what Jerusalem represents to every Jew but focused on the dramatic changes on Har Hazeitim. He outlined his vision for drawing large numbers of visitors to Har Hazeitim, including extending the light rail to Har Hazeitim, the construction of the Visitor Educational Center (being built jointly with the ICHH), a new cable car and other major improvements.

In summarizing the mission, Abe Lubinsky, chairman of the ICHH said: "It should be clear to everyone by now that the issue of restoring and protecting the international historic cemetery of the Jewish people is a matter of national consensus in Israel and by Jews worldwide irrespective of their ideological views."

Har Hazeitim Event Participants

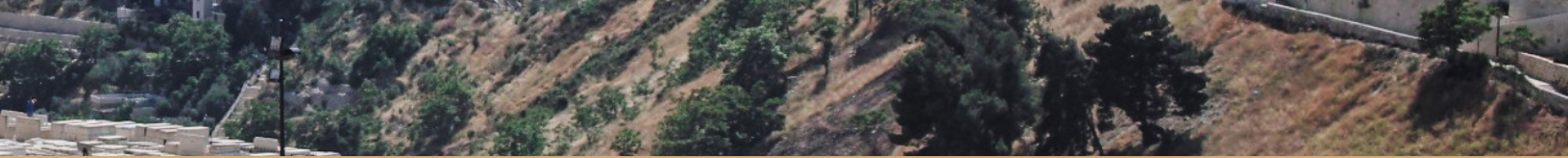
Mr.	Roi David Banet	Amsterdam
Mr.	Abraham Abish Brodt	New Jersey
Mrs.	Rochel Brodt	New Jersey
Mr.	Ari Cytryn	New York
Mr.	Jeff Daube	Israel
Mr.	Albert David	New York
Mr.	Marcel Englstein	Belgium
Mr.	Joseph Ehrman	New York
Mr.	Abraham Fishoff	New York
Mr.	Donald Fishoff	New York
Mr.	Arthur Fogel	Israel
Mrs.	Bernice Fogel	Israel
Mr.	Solomon Goldner	Los Angeles
Mr.	David Goldner	Los Angeles
Mr.	Eli Leonard Scharf	Los Angeles
Mr.	Joseph Goldberg	New Jersey
Mr.	Paul Hellman	New York
Mrs.	Esther Hellman	New York
Mr.	Jacob Herzog	Toronto
Mr.	Malcolm Hoenlein	New York
Mr.	Paul Jacobs	Toronto
Mrs.	Evelyn Jacobs	Toronto
Mr.	Shimon Lefkowitz	New York
Rabbi	Pesach Lerner	New York
Mrs.	Ora Lerner	New York
Mr.	Peretz Chaim Levin	New York
Mrs.	Zahava Levin	New York

Ms.	Alyza D. Lewin	Washington, DC
Mr.	David London	Israel
Mr.	Eugene Lowinger	New York
Mr.	Abe Lubinsky	New York
Mr.	Menachem Lubinsky	New York
Mr.	Mordy Mehlman	New York
Mr.	Charles Miller	New York
Mr.	Yerachmiel Milstein	New Jersey
Mr.	Steven Zachary Mostofsky	New York
Mr.	Refael Egozi Nissel	Los Angeles
Mrs.	Rebecca Egozi Nissel	Los Angeles
Mr.	Eliyahu Oved	Israel
Dr.	Paul Rosenstock	New York
Mr.	Martin Abraham Rosenstock	New York
Mr.	Benjamin Rosenstock	New York
Mrs.	Vivienne Fishoff	New York
Mrs.	Aviva Rosenstock	New York
Mr.	Harry Schimmel	Israel
Mrs.	Anna Schimmel	Israel
Mr.	Harvey Schwartz	Israel
Mr.	Jonathan Sigal	Amsterdam
Mr.	Filip Slipaczek	London
Ms.	Honey Soibelman	New York
Mr.	David Urbach	New York
Mr.	Shimshon Weiss	Israel
Mr.	Shraga Zeldes	New Jersey



Israel's Knesset Caucus On Har Hazeitim

LIKUD	ZIONIST UNION	YESH ATID	KULANU	JEWISH HOME	SHAS
David Bitan	Shelly Yachimovich	Yair Lapid	Eli Elalouf	Nissan Slomiansky	Yakov Margi
Yoav Kisch	Itzik Shmuli	Meir Cohen	Rachel Azaria	Moti Yogev	Yoav Ben-Tzur
Dudu Amsalem	Yechiel Hilik Bar	Ya'akov Peri	Tali Floskob	Bezalel Smotrich	Yitzhak Vaknin
Miki Zohar	Eitan Cabel	Ofer Shelah	Yifat Sasha-Biton	Shuli Mualem	Michael Malchieli
Anat Berko	Mickey Rosenthal	Haim Jelin	Roy Folkman		Yigal Guetta
Nava Boker	Yoel Hasson	Yoel Razvozov			Yulia Malinovsky
Avi Dichter	Eitan Broshi	Aliza Lavie			Yakov Margi
Avraham Nagosa	Nachman Shai	Mickey Levy			
Nurit Koren	Ksenia Svetlova	Elazar Stern			
Oren Hazan	Ayelet Nahmias-Verbin	Yael German			
Sharren Haskel	Eyal Ben Reuven				
Amir Ohana	Omer Barlev				
Yehuda Glick	Amir Peretz				
	Revital Swid				
	Yossi Yona				
	Isaac Herzog				
Yisrael Beytenu	United Torah Judaism	Meretz			
Robert Ilatov	Moshe Gafni	Ilan Gilon			
Oded Forer	Uri Maklev				
Orly Levy-Abekasis	Eliezer Moses				
	Israel Eichler				
	Ya'akov Asher				



New Bus Line: First of Many Transportation Improvements to Har Hazeitim

Regular bus service to Har Hazeitim was launched on Sunday December 3rd as part of a series of transportation improvements to the cemetery.

The new bus line, # 84, will run daily (M-Th) from 8:30 in the morning until 7:45 in the evening. In his announcement, Mayor Nir Barkat called the bus service "an important development for the thousands who visit Har Hazeitim." The bus service, to be operated by the Egged Bus Co. begins on Givat Hatachmoshet and makes 5 stops before ending up near the Seven Arches Hotel atop of Har Hazeitim. The busses are bullet proof.

In working closely with the ICHH, the Mayor revealed a number of new transportation initiatives that would be undertaken in the future, including improved parking. Police officials told the ICHH that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to Har Hazeitim.



מגבעת התחמושת למצפה שבע הקשתות והר הזיתים

נוסעים יקרים!

החל מתאריך 3.12.17

יחל לפעול קו 84 החדש מגבעת התחמושת למצפה שבע הקשתות והר הזיתים, במסלול מעגלי.

נסיעה טובה!



מוצ"ש	שישי	ימים א'-ה'	מוצא
לא פעיל		12:15, 11:30, 10:45, 10:00, 09:15, 08:30, 16:45, 16:00, 15:15, 14:30, 13:45, 13:00, 19:45, 19:00, 18:15, 17:30	גבעת התחמושת



1226 East 10th Street | Brooklyn, NY 11230
212.796.5388 | info@SaveHarHazeisim.org | www.HarHazeisim.org

